

January 2014

Issue #2

# 42 Route Project Update

## Where Are We Now?

*"I am committed to providing public motor vehicle access on this Forest while protecting and restoring sensitive resources."*

*Laurence Crabtree  
Forest Supervisor*

### Special points of interest:

- 24 Routes were opened in September
- 12 routes were temporarily closed.
- The Action Plan is in progress.
- Planning work has begun on several projects

In September of 2013, the Forest Service reached an agreement with the appellants of the Eldorado National Forest Travel Management Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) regarding 42 routes that were designated for public motorized use in the 2008 EIS. These routes were found in a Court ruling to have not been properly analyzed in light of compliance with a standard and guideline (S&G) dealing with hydrologic connectivity within meadows.

Of the 42 routes, 24 were found to either not cross a meadow or to not be impacting meadow hydrologic connectivity. These routes were opened in late September.

Although this update covers all 18 projects, the actual analysis for these projects will be carried out by the Ranger Districts in which the projects are located.

### Agreement Highlights:

- ◇ **Temporary Closure:** In 2013 12 routes were closed temporarily with barriers. Six routes above the snowline will be closed in the Spring of 2014. (See Page 3)
- ◇ **A detailed Action Plan:** A corrective action plan has been created to bring the 18 routes into compliance with S&G 100. (See Page 2).
- ◇ **Cost Benefit Analysis:** A cost benefit analysis will be considered in the prioritization of the corrective actions.
- ◇ **NEPA completed:** An environmental analysis will be completed for each route. Four were initiated in 2013, the remaining 14 routes will be initiated in 2014.

- ◇ **Opportunities for Public Comment:** As planning work for the corrective actions begins on each of the 18 routes, appellants will be notified and given the opportunity to provide input in the planning process as well as the scoping and comment period.

- ◇ **Completion Date:** The corrective actions will be completed within 3 years.

- ◇ **Phased Re-opening:** After careful design and planning the routes will be opened after the corrective actions are completed. If these actions are implemented in phases (not all meadows at the same time), segments of routes where work has been completed with logical turn around points or destinations may be opened before the entire route is completed as long as temporary physical closures are in place for the remaining segments of the route.

- ◇ **Volunteers utilized:** Where appropriate, corrective actions will be implemented with the help of interested volunteers under the direction of the Forest Service.

- ◇ **Evaluation of the other 24 routes:** The routes that were opened in September 2013 will be evaluated relative to S&G 100 beginning in the spring of 2014 as it pertains to water features within 3 years. Corrective actions will be designed and implemented as appropriate within 4 years.

- ◇ **Monitoring Plan:** An environmental monitoring plan will be developed by April 2014. The monitoring will begin after the corrective actions have been completed on the 18 routes and after evaluations have been completed on the 24 routes.

## ***Project Status***

<i><b>Route</b></i>	<i><b>Status</b></i>	<i><b>Funding</b></i>
<b>Amador Ranger District</b>	<b>Rick Hopson, Amador DR</b>	
16E26/17E19 Allen Camp MC Trail 17E24 Carson Emigrant Trail	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
09N95 Consumes Head	Designing corrective actions	Forest Service funding
09N01 Blue Lakes	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
09N08 Stockton Camp	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
19E01 (09N83) Clover Valley/Deer Valley Trail	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
17E28 Long Valley	Designing corrective actions	Forest Service funding
10N13 Schneider Camp Road	Designing corrective actions	SNC Grant
10N01B Woods Lake Spur	Designing corrective actions	SNC Grant
<b>Pacific Ranger District</b>	<b>Richard Thornburgh, Pacific DR</b>	
16E21 Barrett Lake 4WD Trail	Scoping	OHV Planning Grant
14N39 Richardson Lake 4WD Trail	Designing corrective actions	OHV Ground Operations
<b>Placerville Ranger District</b>	<b>Duane Nelson, Placerville DR</b>	
16E27 (10N21) Long Canyon 4WD Trail	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
17E73 (10N13) Strawberry 4WD Trail	Designing corrective actions	OHV Planning Grant
16E33 (11N23F) North Shanty Spur	Designing corrective actions	Forest Service funding
17E16 Little Round Top	Designing corrective actions	Forest Service funding
11NY32 47 Milestone	Maintenance Completed	
10N14 Mule Canyon	Designing corrective actions	OHV Ground Operations
10N98 Jim Quinn Springs	Designing corrective actions	OHV Ground Operations

## *Physical Closure of Routes Status*

<i>Route Number</i>	<i>Type of Closure</i>
09N01	Closed behind County gate.
09N08	Closed behind County gate.
09N95	Barricade
10N01B	Barricades on west and east ends.
10N13	Temporary gates on south and north ends.
10N14	Temporary gates on south and north ends.
10N98	Temporary gate
11NY32	Barrier rocks
14N39	Barrier with signs
16E21 (11N26F)	Existing metal gate.
16E27 (10N21)	Temporary gates at 16E27 on west side of meadow 10N21-1 and 16E27 north side of meadow 10N21-4
16E26 (09N82)	Close when accessible
16E33 (11N23F)	Temporary gates on north and south ends.
17E16	Closed behind Schneider closure.
17E19	Closed behind County gate.
17E24	Barricade on west end, close east end when accessible
17E28	Carsonite sign in trail
17E73 (10N13)	Temporary gate on north end and barrier on south end.
19E01 (09N83)	Closed behind County gate.